

There is the possibility that weather conditions affect the location of the adults, giving a misleading impression of the likely breeding site. Though 1987 had a cool summer, Martin Drake's observations were made during a hot sunny period. My visit was in the dry sunny summer of 1989 so apart from a longer build up of drought in 1989, the two sets of observations were made under somewhat similar conditions. In hot dry weather insects might head for cool moist situations. However, it seems reasonable to infer that the habitat association is normal, though still saying nothing firm as regards indicating the situations where larvae develop. *Dioctria* lay eggs whilst in flight but they could choose rather different habitat for this purpose.

The prey is typical of *Dioctria*, which are specialists on parasitic Hymenoptera. In common with other members of the genus it is probable that other small insects are included in the adult diet. The behaviour of the species remains an enigma. On my first day's observations the species was maddeningly secretive and elusive, easily accounting for the rarity of records. On the next day, when the weather was not markedly different, the species was out in full view showing a far more visible life style. Even in the latter mode it may be easy to overlook but it ought to be intercepted and recorded with moderate success.

Hopefully these observations will provide a stimulus to finding out more about this species.

Acknowledgements

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Eulamprotes phaeella Heckford & Langmaid (Lep.: Gelechiidae) in Kent

At Holly Hill near Snodland, Kent, on the night of 11th July 1990, I took an *Eulamprotes* species at m.v. light which did not match *E. atrella* which appeared at the same time. Later examination of the genitalia, with the help of Mr P. Jewess, indicated that the specimen was of the recently described species *Eulamprotes phaeella*.

This species was taken in Kent in 1937 by L.T. Ford at Bexley, although he had identified it as *Approaerema anthylidella* (Heckford, *Ent. Gaz.* **42**: 188). This current specimen is certainly the most recent, and the most easterly record so far for Kent. No doubt, this species, if searched for, will be shown to be widespread in Kent. For a description of this species see Heckford, R.J. & Langmaid, J.R. (1988) *Ent. Gaz.* **39**: 1-11. *Phaeella* is illustrated in colour by Sokoloff, P.A. & Bradford, E.S. (1990) *Br. J. ent. nat. Hist.* **3**(1) 23-28.— D. O'KEEFFE, 50 Hazelmere Road, Petts Wood, Kent BR5 1PD.